



1-18-05

EV554746655  
2/18/05  
JFW

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No. .... 10/092,994  
Filing Date ..... March 7, 2002  
Inventor..... John Doucer et al.  
Group Art Unit ..... 2172  
Examiner ..... Truong, C.  
Attorney's Docket No. ..... MS1-1017US  
Confirmation No. ..... 8394  
Title: Improving File Availability in Distributed File Storage Systems

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 13, 2004**

To: Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

From: Daniel L. Hayes (Tel. 509-324-9256 x239; Fax 509-323-8979)  
**Customer No. 22801**

**AMENDMENTS**

A Listing of claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.

A Request for Return of Form PTO-1449 begins on page 14 of this paper.

Summary of Unpatentability Rejections begins on page 15 of this paper.

Traverse I begins on page 17 of this paper.

Traverse II begins on page 23 of this paper.

Traverse III begins on page 25 of this paper.

Traverse IV begins on page 30 of this paper.

Traverse V begins on page 35 of this paper.

Traverse VI begins on page 36 of this paper.

Traverse VII begins on page 40 of this paper.

A discussion of Unpatentability begins on page 42 of this paper.

A Conclusion is on page 45 of this paper.